

Attorney General Hood Meets with Trial Lawyers, Daschle on Wednesday; Helps Trial Lawyers Force \$150 million from a Mississippi Hospital on Thursday

A day after attending a Oxford fundraiser for Senate Democrat Leader Tom Daschle sponsored by Mississippi's richest trial lawyers, Attorney General Jim Hood filed a motion to intervene in an effort to force one of Mississippi's charity hospitals into a \$150 million payout brought about by a lawsuit filed by the same trial lawyers.

On Wednesday at the offices of multibillionaire Mississippi trial lawyer Dickie Scruggs, a fundraiser was held to fill the coffers of Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, of South Dakota. The list of sponsors from the event's invitation included some of Mississippi's most notorious trial lawyers: Danny Cupit, Joey Langston, Crymes Pittman, Mike Moore and Scruggs. Attorney General Jim Hood was also in attendance, but was not listed on the invitation.

Claiming that the U.S.'s largest rural health care provider, North Mississippi Health Services, did not provide enough charity care, Scruggs threatened to sue the system as he has 40 other health care system across the country including 350 affiliated hospitals in 21 states. Coincidentally, the lawyer representing NMHS and encouraging the 'settlement' is former Attorney General Mike Moore who teamed with Scruggs to reap a large 'settlement' from U.S. tobacco companies.

"It is sad when a Mississippi charity hospital is held hostage by trial lawyers who extort millions for their own gain. Everytime an uninsured person walks into an

emergency room – these hospitals provide care for free – that is charity care. The hospital and the insurance companies will not be the only ones who will pay for this ‘settlement’. Thousands of Mississippians will pay for it through higher costs for health care and insurance,” said _____.

“What is just as outrageous as this ‘settlement’ is that Mississippi’s own Attorney General would participate in this scheme – especially after meeting with these same trial lawyers a day before to raise money for one of America’s most liberal Senators.

Jim Hood is proving himself to be a puppet for Mississippi’s rich trial lawyers and a friend to some of America’s most liberal elements: Tom Daschle and John Kerry just to name a few,” he added.

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